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LB 270

Senator Cunningham, which I'm not going to do about how good Rice Krispies are. When bills of this kind are going to put the state's imprimatur on an activity which makes claims wilder than those who are selling patent medicine it is an improper use, in my opinion, of the law-making power that we, as a Legislature, have. Every now and then you'll read in the paper about silly laws or stupid laws or whatever term is used to define and describe some of the things that Legislatures have put into law throughout the country down through history, and people today ask how could any Legislature do that; what must those people have been thinking or drinking when they did something like that? Maybe there was some powerful interest group that prevailed on the Legislature to do it. Maybe there was somebody who was a friend of a legislator and said, do this for me. In the spirit of collegiality, a majority of those legislators held their nose, took the plunge and put on the books something which was described later on as a silly, stupid, or asinine law. This bill fits into the category of cloaking something with a type of legitimacy that I don't think it merits. I don't believe it merits it at all. This is a society which breaks things down into little pieces and we'll never see the total picture. So if people are depressed, they don't look for the underlying cause of the depression. If people have a drinking or a drug problem based on trying to get some relief from the grinding life they feel they're living, there is no attempt to try to look at the underlying cause. For the person who is suffering depression you prescribe a pill and, in this case, acupuncture. For the one with the drug or the alcohol problem, instead of treatment, you send them to prison, and the problems are not addressed. They are aggravated and become increasingly severe. These piecemeal patent medicine cure-all propositions are not of benefit to the public. Those of us who are supposed to be members of a deliberative body should not simply look the other way and say, well, we hope it's not going to do any harm, and if people are going to go there and waste their money let them do it. We have passed too many bills that fly under the flag of consumer protection. We are not going to leave the public naked in the presence of people who will try, through fraudulent means, to separate them from their money. We passed a bill the other day that had to do with these sweepstakes where they cannot ask people for money before they get this prize or